RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 4th May, 1993/14 Vaisakha, 1915 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NRI Proposal for setting up Power Projects in Western Region

*121. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA† : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fresh NRI-proposal for setting up power projects particularly in the western region have been received during the last three months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating their location, cost involved and the capacity to be installed; and

(c) what are the details of the arangements and collaboration contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd. has received two offers from NRIs for implementation of the following lignite based projects at the cost of Rs. 1000 crores each :—

(i) Mangrol TPS (250 MW)

(ii) Ghogha TPS (250 MW)

(iii) Agrimota TPS (250 MW)

The Projects are contemplated to be set up in association with Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd. The details of the collaboration arrangements are yet to be firmed up.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Veena Verma.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that despite numerous incentives offered to the NRIs and foreign investors, including the sovereign guarantee on power purchases and supply of fuel and an assured return of 16 per cent besides other incentives given in the Budget 1992-93 and 1993-94, for their investments in the power sector, the response has been very poor ? May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is patently wrong with this sector investment.

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to differ from what the hon. Member has said, that the response has been poor. In fact, the response has been quite good. We have received as many as 41 proposals and they are not different stages of finalisation.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : May I know as to how much of power generation capacity is proposed to be installed in the private sector, including by the NRIs and foreign investors, during 1993-94 and during the Eighth Plan period in the Western sectors and in other sectors ? How much of it is likely to be gas-based ? In this context, I would like to know as to why the proposal for setting up four gas-based power projects in Madhya Pradesh has been pending with the Government for over four years for which the former Minister had assured release of gas from the HBJ-pipeline of that area. What decision has been taken about the clearance thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, it is a very comprehensive question. It has no nexus with the main question which is circumscribed by three limitations. It is about the NRI proposal in the Western region during the last three months. Therefore, if she wants the information, we will be very happy to furnish the information to her.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Sir, what is the policy adopted by the Government about the power distribution and the fixation of electricity rates for the consumers

if the private sector going into production of power ? Should the dual price, the Government price and the private sector price, be there ? The private sector has expressed that the State Electricity Boards should honour the cost of the power supply. Will the Government consider that the agricultural sector and other sectors supported by the State Electricity Boards, at present, will not be affected by the private sector coming into the production of power ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is much outside the scope of the main question. So, I would call Smt. Mira Das.

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether the Government has any proposal to instal a power project in the eastern sector, particularly in Orissa. I know it is not concerned with the western sector but it is.... (*Interruptions*).....

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : We will write to you. We don't have information here.

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : I want to know what the installed capacity is.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, anything I say on the floor of the House has its own serious implications. I don't know it because if my answer is not correct, I will have to go before the Privileges Committee. My answers have to be very precise, correct and accurate. I don't have the information and I need notice for it.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Sir, Gujarat is facing acute shortage of power. Power-cut is often imposed. The Minister has mentioned about two proposals.... (*Interruptions*).....

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : It means the Minister does not know what is happening in the eastern sector. It is very surprising.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I do know what is happening in the eastern sector.. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : It may not be directly related to the question but my colleague has rasied a very valid question.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I have never said that I don't know. I said I needed notice to answer it.... (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Sir, the Minister has replied that two proposals have been received from non-resident Indians to set up power projects in Gujarat. May I know when these proposals will be finalised and by what time ?

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, the NRI proposals pending with the Gujarat Government are as follows :

(1) 250 MW lignite-based power project to be set up at Mangrol. The Gurajart Government have decided to hand over development of the lignite fields of Surat and Bhavnagar to the GPCI. The Corporation has made the necessary application for obtaining a mining lease for the Mangrol project. Action for acquiring land which is required for mining has already been initiated. The Corporation has got prepared a feasibility report for the 250 MW lignite-based power plant in Mangrol. The final report has already been submitted to the Government of Gujarat and the Planning Commission for economic clearance.

(2) 250 MW lignitebased power project to be set up in Bhavnagar district at Bhoga. The Corporation has made an application for a mining lease in Bhavnagar district. The Corporation has also got prepared the feasibility report through M|s. Digene Private Limited, New Delhi. The draft report was received in June, 1992 and the final report is likely to be received shortly.

(3) 250 MW lignite based power plant to be set up at Agrimota in Kutch district. The lignite necessary for

this 250 MW power plant to be set up in Kutch district will be made available by the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited from Agrimota lignite mines. The feasibility report is under preparation.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the Government is taking the help of the NRIs, the private sector, both foreign and Indian. Foreign committed loans worth about Rs. 40,000 crores are pending for several years. I want to know why the Government is unable to utilise this amount because out of the funds which are committed, 50 per cent is on energy. I want to know why you are not using these funds and giving preference to others.

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is outside the purview of the Department of Power.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : It is not at all outside the purview of the Department of Power. I don't know whether I can ask a question.. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : How is it not relevant ? If I ask whether you have two legs or not, then it is irrelevant. Foreign committed loans are more than Rs. 72,000 crores and 50 per cent of this is on energy. It is committed and for the last several years, we have been paying commitment charges. What I asked is, why you are not utilising this amount. This is the question and it is relevant. Sir, I seek your protection.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Sir, it is a question which is relevant for some other Ministry.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : No, no. Not at all. I am only asking on account of Energy. It is only on account of Energy that these committed loans are there which they are not utilizing.... (*Interruptions*)..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just a minute. Let the Minister answer.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, so far as the NRI deposits and loans are concerned, it is only the Finance Ministry which deals with it and not the Power Ministry. So far as our foreign loans are concerned, they have nothing to do with the NRI deposits in the banks.. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, I am very clear and I am asking a precise question. More than forty thousand crores of foreign committed loans are there and, Mr. Minister, your Ministry is not utilizing it. Why are you not utilizing it.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I will need not ce.. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Pardon me ?.... (*Interruptions*) ....

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I said, I need not ce.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Then you will require notice for every question ? .... (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Sir, to find out whether any amount of money has remained unutilized by the Ministry, I will have to make an appraisal.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Then keep it pending.. (*Interruptions*)... Sir, kindly keep the question pending.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Sir, keep it pending.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, many factors come into play in this. If a part of the loan remains unutilized, firstly, I must apprise myself as to whether any loans have remained unutilized and I must be able to explain it to the House. What the honourable Member has said has nothing to do with this question.. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, I sympathise with the Minister.... (*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN : You see, the main question is about the NRI proposal.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : This is about committed loans.... (*Interruptions*).... Sir, you give me a hearing. If they are utilising the NRI loans or any other loans and if there are committed loans available with the Energy Ministry, I am only asking why they are not utilizing them. The Minister is correct when he says that he wants to appraise the situation. But my request is that, in that case, this question should be kept for the next day meant for the Ministry.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : Sir, the main question relates to fresh NRI proposals and, therefore, this question does not arise out of it....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Sir, this question relates to the Western power situation and it relates to it and it is relevant....(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : It does not relate to the NRI proposals..... (*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would suggest that the honourable Member may ask a separate question about the unused loans, but not on this....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, it is true that the main question is about the NRI proposals. But for consideration of theNRI proposals, the funds already available and not utilized will have to be taken into account. So, his question is relevant.... (*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN : In that case, he must ask another question about the Power Ministry. This question does not relate to that. I am sorry, he has to ask another question on that subject itself.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You are free to decide it..(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Shiv Charan Singh.

श्री शिवचरण सिंह : मान्यवर, क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि राजस्थान की जो विद्युत योजनायें आपके विचाराधीन थीं उनमें से इस वर्ष कौन कौन सी योजनाओं पर कार्य शुरू करवा देंगे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry, this also outside the main question. Too many supplementaries are outside the main question. Therefore, I go to the next question. Question No. 122.

Export of Cotton

**122. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY†:*

SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3552 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1993 and state :

(a) what quantity of cotton has been released to be exported so far during the current crop season;

(b) the date when this release was announced and what are the names of the agencies that have been designated to handle these;

(c) whether Government propose to release further quantities of cotton for export and;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (Shri G. Venkat Swamy) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) During the cotton season 1992-93, Government has released a quantity of 14,955 lakh bales of cotton for export.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sarada Mohanty.